

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO THE THABA NCHU FEDERAL COUNCIL
THABA NCHU CIVIC CENTRE
SATURDAY, 25 JULY 2015

To: The Programme Director, National Chairperson
The Deputy President Mr Moerane
Colleagues in the NEC
The Rt Rev Bishop Serapelo and the Executive of the Christian Ministers' Fraternal
Presidents of the Women's and Youth Leagues and their executives
Members of the Federal Council
All Honoured Councillors Present

Politics is a very difficult game. It is played with numbers and people. The more people who support your politics and the more people who acknowledge that your party stands for a good course, the better the chances of the party surviving.

Being a member of a political party has more to do with what the party stands for more than who are in the party let alone who are or is in charge.

We wish to appeal to members and supporters of the UCDP to go back to the basics and see or take this party as a vehicle whose business is to deliver services. Just like a bus, regardless of who drives it, its business is to ferry people from one point to another.

When passengers in a bus stay away to spite the driver, they also suffer as they do not reach their destinations and some lose their jobs in the process while others lose the things they own as they are unable to pay for them and they get repossessed while the bus remains.

We wish to call on all those who call themselves by the UCDP to return to where the founding Fathers of the party started when they called on the Lord to be with them all along and He should not forsake them.

It is for this reason that we have the clergy in our midst as of now going forward. Members of the clergy should be seen to reconcile us and not take sides and stand in one corner with some dissident group while lambasting the other members.

We welcome members of the Christian Ministers' Fraternal who have proved to be progressive and accept that in the new dispensation there is no part of the Republic of South Africa which is called Bophuthatswana. These ministers have come to accept change in the politics of South Africa and do not want to remain like dinosaurs and pretend as if nothing has happened.

We thank the National Chairperson who has been instrumental in bringing them back to the fold.

In the battle of Trafalgar, Horatio Nelson who was the commander of the British forces, called on his troops to defend their country. He told them that England expects every man

to do his duty. Today I want to borrow those words though somewhat paraphrased and say:” The UCDP expects every member to do his duty”

Members of the executive at branch, region, provincial or national levels must execute their duties. Councillors must do their duties, attend council and participate actively, call meetings to report back to their constituencies. The UCDP councillors should not allow themselves to be conveyor belts of the other parties in council.

We once again wish to call on our public representatives not to fraternise with councillors of other party to the extent of partying with them and even plotting the down fall of leaders of parties be it ours or those of other parties. Relating and befriending people is no sin but fraternising with your opponents is a cardinal mistake in politics. You may hear more about that today.

It has become very clear that in most areas party meetings are never held. Branch meetings have become an anathema to some areas. No party can survive without regular branch, regional, provincial meetings. The Federal Council should be the highest meeting of the party in the interim of the National Congress not the only meeting. Let us go back to the basics and ensure that the UCDP is a political party with structures.

I must of course congratulate some of the councillors who are holding the flag of the party aloft with their financial contributions that keep the party afloat. A Morena a le okeletse borra le bomma.

As we go back to the basics for a party to be a party it must have executives in each province. Each province has to have regions which for our convenience we have put forward that they go according to the District Municipalities; each region to have branches which we maintain have to be according to wards in the particular municipality.

In the last Federal Congress we announced and introduced a National Organiser. It is history that we had such an officer. While she brought about some important innovations she unfortunately disregarded her mandate and terms of appointment and began to strut like a Colossus in the party to the total disregard of elected party officials across all levels. The door has had to be shut on her face and the war has just begun from her side. No one is entitled to membership of the UCDP or any party for that matter; we all have to earn to be members of the party.

Our NEC is hamstrung and cannot function as it should. The Treasurer Mrs Motshegare is unable to perform her duties well owing to the protracted indisposition of Rre Motshegare. The Deputy President is holding the fort in the mean time and it is all systems go in that department.

We have operated for far too long without a Secretary General, since the SG who was elected jumped ship and was unaffordable. Mrs Shomolekae declined to serve as SG in a permanent capacity. As the NEC we scrutinised the results of the 2013 Congress and found the Mr CS Tsile came second after the then Secretary General and we fell back to him to serve as Secretary General. We placed him before the North West Provincial lekgotla and

they concurred with us. We place the matter before the Federal Council for ratification.

We in the NEC wish to thank Mrs Shomolekae heartily for keeping the home fires burning during our hour of need. We wish to thank her for her dedication to the work of the party.

We are heading for elections next year. It must be clear that only paid up members of the party will be considered for candidacy.

In the same breath, elections need manpower. We need a national elections committee, as much as we need a provincial elections committees and regional elections committees as well as branch/ward elections committees

The NEC will only serve as an arbiter or mediator on matters of disputes at provincial level while they, province will attend to the regions and so on. All the work will and has to be done by the provincial structures and their subordinates.

I hope by now we are all conversant with the amended Constitution of the party. Most decisions have to be taken by the Federal Council. The NEC will only set systems in motion and the Federal Council will have the final say.

I wish to welcome colleagues who have for some time taken some rest from the hurly burly of politics. We hope they will toe the line in what we do. We are the United Christian Democratic Party of the people who subscribe to the Constitution of the party.

We should strive to work in Unity, we should strive to conduct ourselves as Christians; the insults that were hurled at some of us by some people in the past leave a lump in one's throat when one has to deal with those people but Christianity demands of us to live and let live, Christianity demands of us to forgive as the Lord has forgiven us. As a party that practises democracy, people have to be allowed to speak their mind and behave themselves without threats and as a party it means we are a family. Let us practise the principle of the first among equals.

In a democratic dispensation there are no permanent positions, that we must know. One may remain in a position as long as he lives as long as he/she is elected and re-elected into that position. In a democracy no position has to be assumed for life without elections from time to time.

I wish you very successful deliberations in this historic place of the Barolong.

I thank you